

**2023 -- H 5490 SUBSTITUTE A**

LC000117/SUB A/2

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2023**

**A N A C T**

**RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RATE INCREASE MEETINGS**

Introduced By: Representatives Morales, Potter, Newberry, Cortvriend, Kislak, McEntee,  
Knight, Hull, Stewart, and McNamara

Date Introduced: February 10, 2023

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Section 39-1-11 of the General Laws in Chapter 39-1 entitled "Public Utilities  
2 Commission" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **39-1-11. Proceedings before commission.**

4           (a) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations governing the procedure  
5 to be followed in any matter that may come before it for a hearing, and in the hearing the  
6 commission shall not be bound by technical rules of evidence. The commission shall sit as an  
7 impartial, independent body, and is charged with the duty of rendering independent decisions  
8 affecting the public interest and private rights based upon the law and upon the evidence presented  
9 before it by the division and by the parties in interest. The presence of one commissioner shall  
10 constitute a quorum at all hearings, provided that the concurrence of a majority of the commission  
11 shall be required for the rendering of a decision.

12           (b) At least one public hearing conducted by the commission, during which public  
13 comment will be elicited related to a utility rate increase, shall be held on Monday, Tuesday,  
14 Wednesday, or Thursday at or after 5:30 pm. This requirement does not prohibit the commission  
15 from conducting additional hearings to elicit public comment in a matter during regular business  
16 hours.

1 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RATE INCREASE MEETINGS

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- 1           This act would require public hearings of the commission related to utility rate increases
- 2   be conducted on Monday through Thursday after 5:30 pm.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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